

Sept 10, 1999

3314 '99 SEP 17 A9:52

**FDA/Dockets
Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852**

RE: Docket No. 97N-0074

The Presidents' Inter-Agency Council on Food Safety is analyzing how to improve food safety. The Council is in the process of developing a strategic plan and is requesting public input.

I would like to address the treatment and conditions by which farm animals suffer. Problems include overcrowding animals, subjecting them to stressful procedures and conditions, feeding them chicken litter and feces, rendering diseased animals into animal feed, excessive use of antibiotics and other drugs, and inhumane and unhygienic transport and slaughter.

Food safety hazards first and foremost need to be addressed at the source, with mandatory safeguards at the animal production stage. These include more humane and hygienic treatment and conditions for farm animals. Short of this, any food safety plan is doomed to fail. Regulatory authority at the production stage must be expanded, with adequate funding actively sought.

Sincerely,

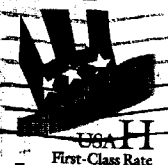
**Janet J Reekers
Registered Democrat
80 Gaywood Pl
Moraga, CA 94556**

**Cc:
USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk /Re: Docket No. OPP-00550
300 12th St. SW
Rm 102 Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250**

97N-0074

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